



CHARTS OF THE PROGRESS OF HYDROGRAPHY OF THE BRITISH ISLES AND SWEDEN

By Circular-Letter N° 43-1922 of the 26th October 1922, the Bureau requested the Hydrographic Services of the States Members, to forward a statement of those of their coasts which were:—

- (a) fully surveyed
- (b) partially surveyed
- (c) superficially examined.

It had been suggested for convenience in giving the information, to draw up charts on which the areas entering into the categories (a), (b), (c), should be coloured respectively red, blue, yellow.

Later on the supply of this same information was requested from a certain number of other States.

The intention of the Bureau, when asking for this information, was to assemble it into a set of a few charts, one for each Ocean or group of secondary seas, which would have represented the progress of the surveys of the coasts of the whole world and shown at which points insufficiency of hydrographic data rendered a particular effort necessary.

The collation of the replies could not take place before the end of 1925, owing to the slowness with which they arrived at the Bureau. A draft of the projected charts was made and presented to the Delegates of the 2nd International Hydrographic Conference (Monaco, October-November, 1926).

But this collation of the replies and still more the drawing up of the charts, showed that the information received was but little suited to the purpose intended.

The information received disclosed that the States had very variously interpreted the terms: *fully surveyed*, *partially surveyed*, *superficially examined*. Certain countries had given to the expression — fully surveyed — the extremely rigorous meaning of an absolutely perfect knowledge of the depth in the greatest detail; others seemed to have included in this category all coasts sufficiently well known that shipping would run no abnormal risks; the inclusion under the same colour of information obviously uncomparable, would have given an inaccurate result and yet the Bureau could not, of itself, modify the replies received.

Besides, the preciseness of the replies varied. Certain Governments supplied written replies without any chart or precise limitation of the various areas on the seaward side; others who had sent charts, had not indicated the

limits of their investigations any the better for that ; a last though limited category drew up charts on which each area was marked with accuracy and, in certain cases, these were accompanied by the dates of the surveys.

Finally, certain replies were received immediately, others took 3 years to reach the Bureau, consequently there was a risk that the earlier replies were no longer up to date, when the work was taken up.

There will be found at the end of this volume, after the chart showing the progress of Hydrography in the Netherland East Indies, which accompanies the article on this subject (page 45), two charts of the same kind showing the progress of Hydrography in the British Isles and in Sweden.

The chart of Sweden appears also in a booklet published this year by the Swedish Hydrographic Office under the title : " A small guidance for estimating the reliability of Swedish charts ", an analytical note on which will be found in the Hydrographic Bibliography (page 213).

These very detailed and complete charts were selected as representing clearly the type of information which the Directing Committee would like to receive from all Hydrographic Offices, in order to be able to resume the production of general charts which it has had to abandon provisionally.

It is proposed, whilst awaiting the resumption of this work to publish similar charts of other coasts in the forthcoming issues of the *Hydrographic Review*.

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